

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00048 141252Z

47

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0839

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR PUBLIC AFFAIRS: EAST PUBLICIZES FREEZE PROPOSAL

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0045

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN'S
LAST PLENARY STATEMENT, FEBRUARY 13, 1975, DEPUTY
CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION HEAD MEISNER GAVE FULL DETAILS
EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL TO PRESS AT POST-PLENARY BACKGROUNDER.
IN DESCRIBING KLEIN'S PLENARY STATEMENT, HE SAID EAST HAD
MADE "AN INITIATIVE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE", DESIGNED TO
HELP GET TALKS MOVING. IN FOLLOW-UP Q'S AND A'S, US PUBLIC
AFFAIRS ADVISER DREW ON PRESS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE TO
RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ABOUT ALLIED VIEWS ON EASTERN
PROPOSAL. MEISNER TOLD PAA THAT KLEIN HAD WANTED
PUBLICATION OF FREEZE PROPOSAL BEFORE KLEIN'S DEPARTURE
FOR PRAGUE ON REASSIGNMENT BECAUSE OF HIS "CLOSE ATTACHMENT"
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00048 141252Z

TO IT. SUBSEQUENTLY, AD HOC GROUP DECIDED TO MAKE INFORMAL

COMPLAINT TO EAST OVER THIS VIOLATION OF AGREED CONFIDENTIALITY RULE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING FEBRUARY 13 POST-PLENARY BACKGROUNDER, CZECHOSLOVAK SPOKESMAN MEISNER (DELEGATION DEPREP), READING FROM NOTES, SAID KLEIN'S PLENARY STATEMENT HAD REFERRED TO "NEW SOCIALIST INITIATIVE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE" INTENDED TO GIVE IMPETUS TO DEADLOCKED TALKS, ERECT "STRONG BARRIERS" AGAINST ARMS RACE, AND ASSIST IN FINDING MUTUAL SOLUTIONS TO REDUCTIONS. MEISNER SAID EAST HAD PROPOSED THAT "ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ADOPT IN THE FORM OF A JOINT DECLARATION THE OBLIGATION NOT TO INCREASE THE MANPOWER OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE TALKS." HE ADDED THAT ADOPTION OF PROPOSAL WOULD NOT THREATEN SECURITY OF ANY STATE AND WOULD NOT GIVE ANYONE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE. IN RESPONSE TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS, MEISNER REAFFIRMED THAT THE EASTERN FREEZE WOULD APPLY TO MANPOWER ONLY, THAT IT IS NOT A REDUCTION MOVE, AND THAT PARTICIPANTS CAN DECIDE ON THE TIMING OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

3. US PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISER, SPEAKING FOR ALLIES, RESPONDED TO CORRESPONDENTS' QUESTIONS CONCERNING ALLIED VIEWS ON EASTERN PROPOSAL IN LINE WITH AGREED PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE (MBFR VIENNA 0031).

4. SOME OF THE PRESS REPRESENTATIVES PRIVATELY TOLD US SPOKESMAN THAT LATEST EASTERN PROPOSAL DOES NOT SEEM TO ADD ANYTHING NEW TO ITS ORIGINAL NOVEMBER 8, 1973 PROPOSALS. THEY ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT WESTERN NO-INCREASE PROPOSAL WAS MADE AS EARLY AS THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ADDRESSEES HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE TEXT OF SUGGESTED MATERIAL FOR POSSIBLE PRESS RESPONSE. THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS A MORE SUCCINCT VERSION WHICH EMPHASIZES THE POINT THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE PROPOSED NO-INCREASE COMMITMENTS AND THEN COMPARES THE TWO PROPOSALS TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE EAST. BEGIN TEXT:
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00048 141252Z

1. BOTH SIDES IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSED A NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON ALL AIR AND GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN CENTRAL EUROPE SOME TIME AGO.

2. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PROPOSALS ARE:

A. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL IS NOT CONNECTED WITH

REDUCTIONS, WHICH ARE THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS INTENDED AS AN INDEPENDENT STEP AND SEEMS DESIGNED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS. AGREEMENT TO IT WOULD THEREFORE REDUCE THE INCENTIVE FOR THE EAST TO AGREE TO THE MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS THE WEST WANTS. THE WESTERN NO-INCREASE PROPOSAL ON THE OTHER HAND IS PART OF A PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES SIGNIFICANT SOVIET AND US REDUCTIONS.

B. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF FREEZING FORCE LEVELS AT THEIR PRESENT UNEQUAL LEVEL, CONTRACTUALIZING EASTERN GROUND FORCE SUPERIORITY. THE WEST IS AIMING FOR PARITY IN GROUND FORCES IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. FOR THE WEST TO AGREE TO A SEPARATE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT IN ADVANCE OF AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS WOULD MEAN THAT IT WAS FORMALLY ABANDONING ITS RIGHT TO ACT TO RECTIFY THE GROUND FORCE INEQUALITY WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED ANY EASTERN ASSURANCE THAT THE EAST WAS WILLING TO MOVE TOWARD ELIMINATING THIS INEQUALITY.

C. IT MAKES NO SENSE TO HAVE A FORCE FREEZE UNLESS ONE KNOWS AT WHAT LEVEL FORCES ARE BEING FROZEN. THE ALLIES HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED THE EAST DATA ON THEIR TOTAL OF THEIR GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA AND HAVE PROPOSED AN EXCHANGE OF DATA ON AIR AND GROUND FORCES. THE EAST HAS THUS FAR REFUSED EITHER TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF WESTERN DATA OR TO EXCHANGE DATA.

D. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL SEEKS TO IMPOSE NATIONAL CEILINGS ON THE FORCES OF THE NATO COUNTRIES. THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FORESEES A COLLECTIVE CEILING WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE CONTINUED INTRA-ALLIED COOPERATION AND SPECIALIZATION NECESSARY FOR EFFECTIVE WESTERN DEFENSE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 MBFR V 00048 141252Z

AT LOWEST COST.

3. AS REGARDS THE PRESENT STATUS OF THIS TOPIC, THE WEST IS STILL SEEKING TO GAIN EASTERN AGREEMENT TO ITS PROPOSALS AS PART OF AN OVERALL REDUCTION AGREEMENT. END TEXT.DEAN

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